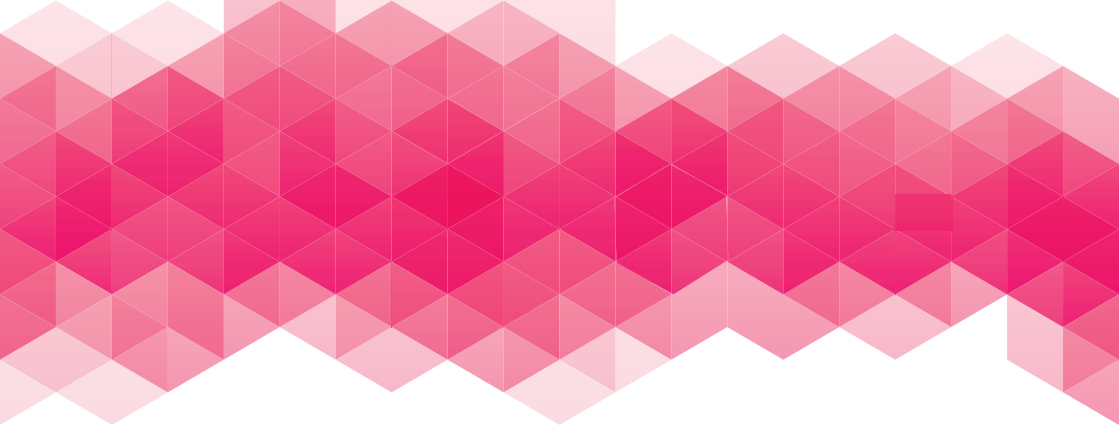




# Meningitis and Meningococcal Septicaemia

5 good reasons to get vaccinated

**Vaccination for 11 – 14 year-olds**

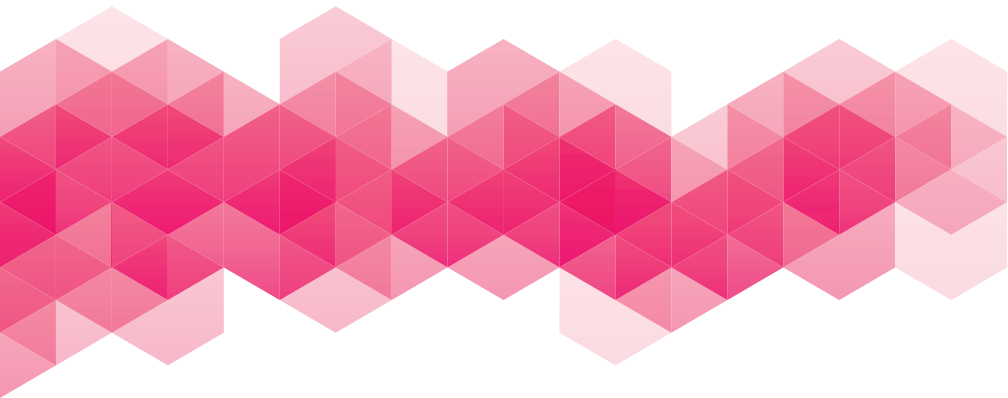


A significant increase in cases of invasive meningococcal infections (meningitis and septicaemia) has been observed since 2023, particularly those caused by meningococcal types W and Y. Given the potential severity of these infections, vaccination is recommended for all adolescents aged 11 to 14.

## What is an invasive meningococcal infection?

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In France, around 500 to 600 people are affected each year by an invasive meningococcal infection.

- It is a very serious illness such as meningitis or septicaemia, which can be fatal or leave lasting consequences (deafness, learning disabilities, limb amputation, etc.).
- It is caused by a bacterium known as meningococcus, of which there are several types: A, B, C, W, and Y. In France, the most common types are B, W, and Y.
- Meningococci are bacteria found in the throat and nose of many people without causing illness. They can be transmitted through close, prolonged, or repeated contact with an infected person.
- In addition to infants, for whom vaccination is compulsory, adolescents and young adults are particularly affected.
- Safe and effective vaccines against meningococcal types A, C, W, and Y are now available.



## Who is the vaccination for?

Vaccination against meningococcal types A, C, W, and Y is recommended for adolescents aged 11 to 14, regardless of any previous meningococcal vaccinations. Catch-up vaccination is also recommended up to the age of 24.

A single injection protects adolescents for at least 5 to 10 years. The vaccine can be given at the same time as other adolescent vaccines: the diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough-polio booster and the HPV vaccine.



From the start of the 2025 school year, the meningococcal A, C, W, Y vaccine will be offered free of charge in secondary schools, alongside the HPV vaccine.

## Which vaccines are available?

Three vaccines can be used in adolescents: Nimenrix®, Menquadfi®, and Menveo®.

## What are the side effects?

- These vaccines may cause a reaction at the injection site (pain, redness, swelling) and symptoms such as fever, irritability, or headache. These effects are mild and temporary
- As with all vaccines, severe allergic reactions are very rare but possible.

## How much does the vaccine cost?

Vaccines against meningococcal types A, C, W, and Y are 65% reimbursed by the French Health Insurance (Assurance Maladie). The remaining cost is covered by complementary health insurance. Beneficiaries of the CSS and AME schemes pay nothing.

## Where can you get vaccinated?

- At secondary school.
- At GPs, paediatricians, midwives, nurses, pharmacies, or vaccination centres.

Any questions  
or need advice?  
Talk to a  
healthcare  
professional.

## Effective vaccines

Data from countries that vaccinate against invasive meningococcal infections A, C, W, Y confirm the high effectiveness of these vaccines.

## Essential vaccines

They protect adolescents from meningitis and septicaemia caused by meningococcal types A, C, W, Y, and prevent potentially severe complications.

By preventing vaccinated adolescents from becoming infected and passing the bacteria to others, vaccination protects not only the vaccinated individual but also those around them.

## Simple vaccines

A single injection is enough to protect adolescents into adulthood. They can be administered at the same time as other routine adolescent vaccines.

## Safe vaccines

Side effects are rare and mild.

## Reimbursed vaccines

The vaccine is reimbursed at 65% by the French Health Insurance (Assurance Maladie), with the remainder covered by top-up insurance.

Vaccination is free at certain health centres and in schools.

